Fellowship in Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

"Father in Heaven, thy blessings are so abundant that our complainings are shamed into silence. Accept our gratitude for the countless gifts and safeguards that surround us. We praise thee that there is somewhere a solution for each problem and a refuge from each calamity that we face. Give us a heart to serve thee and enable us to show forth our thankfulness for all the benefits that thou hast conferred." Amen.

Volume VII October, 1956 Number 5

OUR PURPOSE

"To promote the practice of prayer among *all* religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind."

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

22 E. 29th Street New York 16, N.Y.

Volume VII October, 1956 Number 5

IN THANKSGIVING

Knowledge is the candle lighting up
our mind,
Pointing out the truth that we must
seek and find.
Guiding down the path that ignorance
once blocked,
Wisdom is the key and doors are now
unlocked.
Fact becomes the tool we use to mold
our way;
On the wheel of Life we shape our
Future's day.
From the source of God's divine
creative fire,
Fact and knowledge come to lighten and
inspire.
Every day we blend our thoughts of life
Happiness and love, our knowledge and
our strife.
Building in our children's hearts and
lives we pray,
Attitudes of Peace, a true
Thanksgiving day.

-- *Zelma Dennis.*

THE ONE TALENT MAN

(Matthew 25:14-30)

By Carl E. Holmes

The parable of the talents might better be called the parable of the one talent man. There are innumerable examples of the ten-talent men who are the geniuses and the five-talent men who represent the reasonably successful. This parable is the tragic story of so many who feel that in the handing out of natural gifts they have been overlooked. Failing to appreciate their capabilities and lacking the imagination, energy and courage to use what they have, they gradually lose what they started out with.

One of the most insistent problems of life is our plain everyday responsibility to use our talents and measure up to our opportunities. Many equipped for activity hide from active service. This parable is a message to the man who has no time to serve on committees, who will not share his abilities with his community; to the suburbanite who answers to the request for his services with the reply, "I moved out here to rest"; to the woman of experience who might be a great influence in the life of a young girl but who, "can't be bothered"; to the man whose answer to help out in the church is, "I have no talent for that sort of thing." This message is to the whole inglorious company of shirkers too innumerable to mention.

Mediocrity is the fate of millions who could, if they realized it, rise to the heights of personal achievement. George H. Bender reminds us, "There is no one who cannot find a place for himself in our kind of world. Each of us has some unique capacity waiting for realization. Every person is valuable in his own existence—for himself alone. In our communities, in our circle of family and friends, each of us can bring to fruition these innate, God-given abilities."

Cicero said, "The precept, 'know thyself', was not solely intended to obviate the pride of mankind, but likewise that we might understand our own worth." We are all born with a certain amount of natural equipment but our talents are never developed unless we use them. The muscles of this body of ours grow flabby with disuse, likewise our unused talents are lost when we neglect them.

It is a fundamental law of life, that the universe is amazingly fruitful for talents. Talents are multiplied as a harvest multiplies seed. On the other hand, the universe is amazingly fatal for talents. If neglected, if unrisked, they vanish. Hiding in the ground will not save them, they rot. The one talent man was the only one who took no risks—and he lost all. Power used with discretion and adventure becomes increased power, but power left stagnant is seized with paralysis.

The one talent man is everywhere. To him can be traced much of the deadly inertia and lethargy of our world today. He fails to appreciate his own worth—for, in reality, he has many talents. He can think, express himself, vote, work and pray. The progress of the world depends upon him as much as it does on the geniuses.

The moral of the parable is that life is like a fertile field to the man who courageously sows his seed. His reward is increased gifts and increased responsibilities. Let us be faithful over a few things and prove our readiness to expect greater responsibilities. If we feel that we do not have the qualifications for any particular position, we need only to turn humbly to God for guidance to be led into that activity in which our efforts can be best utilized. We should be less concerned with the number of talents we have and more concerned with using what we do have in the service of God.

* * *

"Father in heaven, Thou hast blessed us with many precious gifts, gifts of body and soul. We thank Thee for them. Help us to ever appreciate them and realize that we have a great responsibility because we possess them. Grant us grace and strength to use them day by day to Thy glory and to the good and happiness of those with whom we come in contact. For Jesus' sake." Amen.

oooOooo

There is nothing noble in being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your precious self.

--Hindu Proverb.

oooOooo

THE PERSONAL RESPONSE

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

"What Thinkest Thou?" *(Matthew 17-25).*

We all realize the importance of our mental attitude toward others; in addition to this we need to consider the tremendous significance of our mental attitude toward ourselves.

This is not a plea for conceit, but an appeal for confidence in our God-given powers. Egotism has undoubtedly kept many from real success; and it is just as true that lack of faith in one's self can prevent progress, and make success impossible.

One tells us— "Our mental collapse is the result of a poor system of bookkeeping! We strike off our trial balance, having underscored self-liquidating liabilities, and overlooked important personal assets..." Confidence in one's ability to achieve a desired objective is vital.

Whoever believes a given task impossible reaches a result corresponding to his suspicions!

Philip the Second built the majestic armada and sent it forth to crush the insignificant looking English fleet. But the admiral of the great Spanish fleet, in addition to his sea-sickness, openly confessed to Philip his personal lack of confidence in the outcome of the expedition.

So the Spanish armada sailed straight into the defeat which corresponded to the mental pattern of doubts and fears in the mind of the admiral.

Constrast that expedition with the one financed by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. The "Pinta," the "Nina" and the "Santa Maria" were poor, weak vessels compared with the resplendent units of the Spanish armada; and yet these three tiny boats were strengthened and impelled by a mightier force than all the great ships sent out by Philip the Second.

Christopher Columbus— the leader of the little ships seeking a new world—was a man of invincible faith and courage.

"SAIL ON AND ON"

Behind him lay the gray Azores, behind the gates of Hercules;
Before him not the ghost of shores; before him only shoreless seas!
The good mate said, "Now must we pray, for lo! the very stars are gone;
Brave admiral speak: What shall I say?' Why say, 'Sail on! Sail on! and on!"

All the great outposts of

discovery and progress have been reached by the Columbus spirit! More important than the material equipment is the mental endowment of the one in charge of the venture. Each day the question of the Master comes, "What Thinkest Thou?" Followed by the divine edict, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." And the soul is thrilled with the promise, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9-23).

"What Thinkest Thou?" How do you face life's challenge?

The pessimist sees a difficulty in every opportunity; The optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty.

One quotes Samuel Butler as follows: "There are two great rules in life, the one general, and the other particular. The first is, that everyone can get what he wants if he only tries hard enough. This is the general rule. The particular rule is, that every individual is, more or less, an exception to the general rule.

This may be regarded as a humorous remark—with a liberal admixture of cynicism! But it certainly lacks the sturdy quality of truth—if indeed it were meant to convey the author's real conviction.

The answer to Samuel Butler's statement is given by Jesus Christ Himself in two rules of life—the one general, and the other particular. The first is:

The general rule found in Matthew 7-7: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (To "ask" is to present a request; to "seek" is to make a search, involving personal action; to "knock" is to do something definite).

The second and particular rule is found in Matthew 9-29: "According to your faith be it unto you." Many people have a mistaken notion that faith is a vague and dreamy state of mind and soul, but on the contrary, it is a vital and vigorous virtue calling for personal participation and definite decision.

Even if you face what appear to be insoluble problems and insurmountable obstacles you should remember that "a precept of impossibility is a promise of omnipotent help." We are sometimes placed in an "impossible situation" in order to help us realize that we need divine assistance.

The extent of your difficulty is the measure of your opportunity when God is your partner! It is not your ability, but your willingness to

co-operate with divine power that decides the issue.

To say, "I can do all things." is to express an optimism based on egotism. To exclaim with Paul the apostle, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," is to possess the secret of true success. Thus, you are more than conqueror over opposition with divine power within your life.

A LESSON TAUGHT

During a dry season in the New Hebrides the famous missionary, Dr. John Paton, aroused the wonder and derision of the natives by digging for water. They gathered around the deluded missionary and reminded him that water came down from the sky, not up through the earth. But Dr. Paton taught them a lesson, they never forgot, by proving that heaven could give them water through their own land. And the voice of Jesus comes clear and confident— "The kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17-21). According to your faith be it unto you." *(Matthew 9-29):*

Amid earth's conflict and its din
Have faith; trust God; and you will win.

oooOooo

- -

A PRAYER

Help me to lift my eyes, that I may see
The torch of faith that shines eternally,
Gilding the mist that hides what is to be.

Walk by my side, for oft my path is filled
With shattered dreams, and teach me how to build
Truer and better, in a manner skilled.

Strengthen my soul to meet each rigid test,
And may its steadfast courage manifest
The precept that Thy way, not mine is best.

--Anna M. Carroll.

* * *

"THE POWER WITHIN"

(Sent by Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor)

When you have reached the place where you know that, "The Spirit of God within you is greater than any problem", you will have conquered fear within yourself and you will have reached the place where you know you can conquer everything insofar as it relates to you.

Many times the fear of your inability to cope with some problem is but a shadow, something that you do not quite understand or that you do not recognize your control over—and because of your seeming inability to understand this shadow, it soon begins to govern you and to make itself felt more and more in your life. Your need is to discover your own great Power, which makes you the master instead of the shadow.

To-day, we may find many shadows if we are not careful. We must be sure that we do not keep our faces toward these shadows and our backs to the sun allowing the shadows to blind us and fill us with an overwhelming fear.

It is not necessary to fight and to struggle against such shadows—we only need to turn around and face the sun, face the light within, which is Divine.

* * *

Blessings Often Overlooked

Dear Lord, my thanks I offer Thee
For priceless gifts bestowed in me!
I use them constantly, and yet
The *Giver* I sometimes forget!
Thanks for my *eyes*, dear Lord—I see
The glories that encircle me.
While through my *ears* come speech and songs—
The world of sound to me belongs!
My *hands*, with their swift sense of touch,
Are daily blessings—mean so much!
My *voice*, too, is a gift from God—
A constant help along life's road.
My *mind*, my *heart*, my *soul*—all three
Are precious treasures, Lord, from Thee.
For *life* on this Thanksgiving Day,
Accept my gratitude, I pray!

-- W. J. Thompson.

* * *

OUR MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY

By Roy Wallace Thomas

Our major responsibility and our highest privilege, the source of our greatest blessings, is the life of obedience to God and loyalty to his will. One of the most famous of modern sermons, written slightly over a century ago by a brilliant young English preacher, was entitled "Obedience the Organ of Spiritual Knowledge," based upon Jesus' saying that if any man will do God's will, he shall know whether the teaching is from God (John 7:17).

God's will is the greatest power known to man. God wills what is best for every human being. His will is active, hence it kept Jesus active. Since Jesus was wholly devoted to God's will, it kept him active demonstrating the meaning of the will of God for life. Great were Jesus' words. Greater were his deeds. His main teaching was action.

Those who say that study is the way to dynamic truth are half right. Jesus said that action is the way to positive knowledge of the truth. An expert may tell you exactly how to swim, but you learn by swimming. Life is more than ideas. It is only in the experience of actually doing right that we find the reality of God.

The way to God is more than right thinking, although it includes right thinking. As you pore over a seed catalog in the winter you visualize the garden that spring may bring to you. But that garden will never be a reality until you do something. You must carry out the suggestions. The garden comes only through action. And when you see your own garden, and walk in it, you have a knowledge that the catalog could not give you. The ideas have led to reality through action. Your garden came into being as the result of your rising from your armchair and doing something about it. Therefore, did Jesus lovingly urge again and again, "This do." In doing is highest knowledge because of the glorious fruit of doing.

It is never enough, then, merely to think right thoughts about God and about justice, important as this is. The new world of God is the sublime fruit of working creatively with the Spirit of God. In the life of true obedience we see God in the new individual and in the new socie-

ty. Armchair devotions and pew-bound religion are far from being enough to please the God of Jesus. In fact, the test of obedience to God is in how we treat his offspring. The test of obedience is the life of justice.

What about the problems that arise in the seething life of humanity throughout the world because of ignorance, superstition, poverty, disease, greed, political and economic and religious oppression, cruelty, tyranny of race toward race? What about racial equality among the offspring of God? Such problems obedience cannot neglect and remain loyal to God. What about war and the causes of war?

Our major responsibility is moral because it involves a right state and right action of the individual will. Jesus placed moral effort, Godlike action, inseparably at the center of true religion. True religion is to arise with Jesus and go forth in his spirit to do something about all the ills and wrongs of life.

The obedience that God expects is never stultifying because he is not a dictator. It is said that Henri Christopher, the king of Haiti, more than a century ago, required blind, abject obedience of his followers. He had his soldiers so trained that if a regiment of them had been commanded to march straight ahead and not turn or stop until further orders, and they were to face a precipice before the new order came, they would have marched stolidly over the cliff. It is not so with obedience to God, for he has created us in his image.

As offspring of God we are endowed with the gift of freedom and of intelligence. Like God we can think and choose and act. We are moral beings. We glorify God when we use our freedom in right action, our intelligence in right thinking, our wills in right choices. In this our Creator was pleased to make us in turn creators. True obedience is to work creatively with God.

* * *

"He who serves his brother best, gets nearer God than all the rest." When we realize this great, basic truth we can see and understand that each of us, as "parts of one tremendous whole" has a purpose. Each individual, each nation has a contribution to make and should make it to the perfection of the whole. -- *Selected.*

THE ROPE OF FAITH

By Mildred Seydell

Looking out from my New York hotel room, I see a man washing windows. I marvel — the daring and the courage of him! A sheer drop of three hundred feet to the ground from the narrow ledge where he moves. Yet, tranquilly he dips his rag into a bucket. Under his hand dull panes brighten, catch the sunlight, reflect it.

How can he do it! Danger lurking at his feet, yet he sings — he works — he is happy.

Then I see the explanation for his bravery. To each side of his belt, scarcely visible, is fastened a black rope whose ends are attached securely to the sides of the window frame. As long as the rope holds he cannot fall!

Around me men and women close to calamity, to sickness, to death, balancing themselves on one of life's precipices, yet going about their daily tasks, smiling. Perplexed, I have watched them, and have discovered that it was the rope of faith, faith in God, in Goodness, which made them feel safe.

Perhaps today you must take some hazardous step. You cannot turn back — it is your duty. Then fasten on tightly that rope of faith, with its blessed protection, and feeling its pull, go about your work cheerily.

* * *

GOLDEN THOUGHTS—

Seek tranquility amidst disturbance — and disturbances lead to its perfection. Tranquility is a great spiritual asset and a mark of concealed power. In calmness lies power. *(Observed by Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor).*

* * *

From the gift looking to the Giver,
And from the cistern to the River,
And from the finite to Infinity,
And from man's dust to God's divinity.

-- *Robert Browning.*

oooOooo

PRAYER FOR ALL WORKERS:

O God who hast bound us together in one bundle of life, give us grace to discern how our lives depend upon the courage, industry, honesty, and integrity of our fellows.

With gratitude we remember before Thee the working men and women of this land, upon whom our very life and liberty so evidently depend.

For all who toil in the heat and burden of this day, when we are at rest;

For all who, in factory and field, spare not their strength, but give of their skill and devotion to the uttermost;

For the women and girls who work at night;

For the men in the mines, in factories and fields;

For the leaders of labor, suddenly brought into places of high responsibility—grant them the discharge of their trust as a holy commission, not exploiting it for selfish advantage or pride of place.

For all whose labor brings them into danger and temptation and dullness, and monotony that warps the soul;

For all in other lands—who know the bitterness of forced labor, unillumined by the light of freedom's beacon of hope;

Make us mindful of the needs of all—grateful for their fidelity, faithful in our responsibility to them. Amen.

--Theodore Carswell Hume.

(Used by courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Hume).

How The Days Began! (Genesis 1-5)

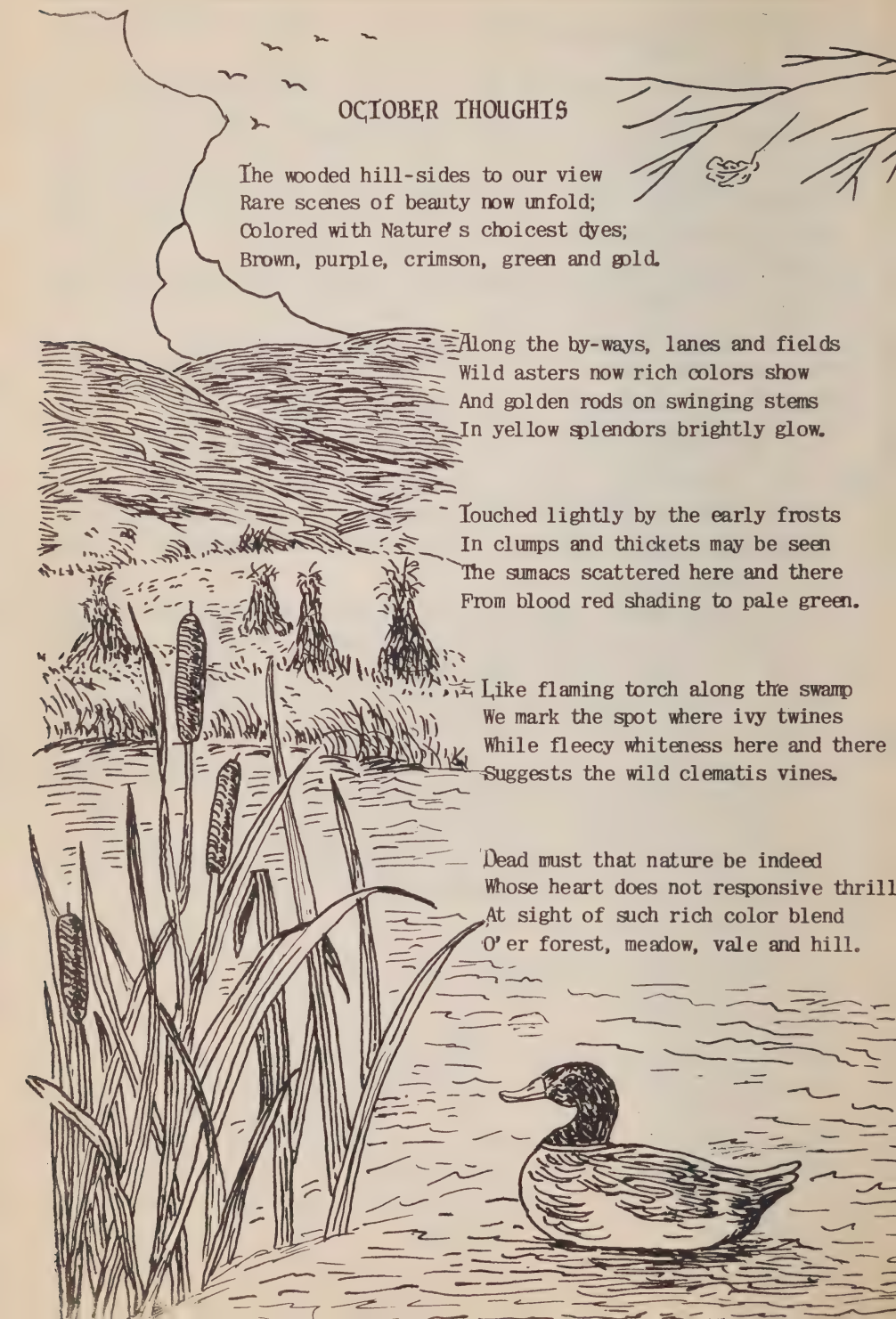
"The Evening and the Morning were the First Day"—
Not the Morning and the Evening, as we say!

Darkness first, then afterward came the Dawning—
So Life's "Day" leads from Evening to Morning.

Here, then, is God's Message, making sad eyes bright—
After Death's Darkness comes Heaven's Morning Light!

--Dr. W. J. Thompson.

oooOooo



OCTOBER THOUGHTS

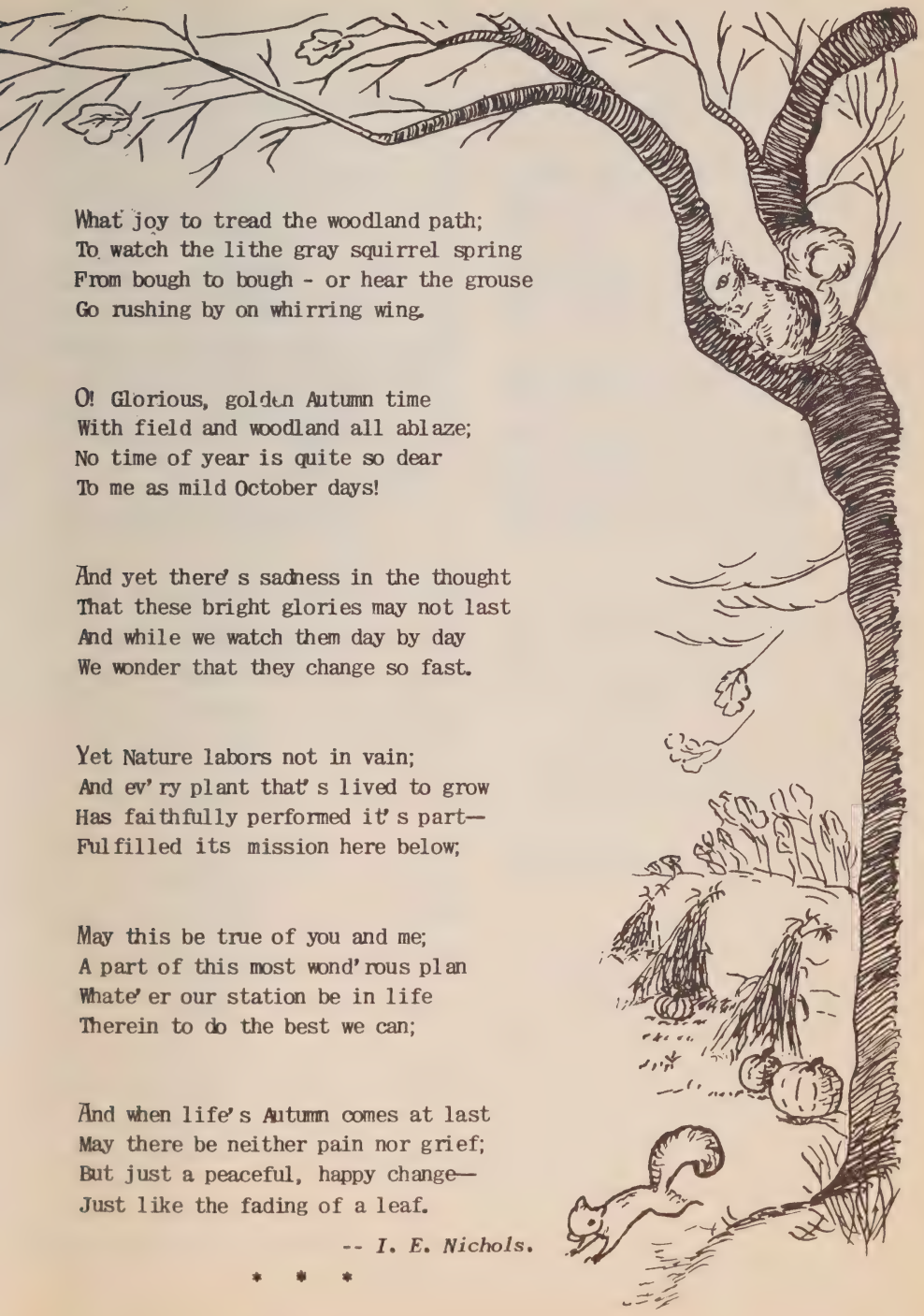
The wooded hill-sides to our view
Rare scenes of beauty now unfold;
Colored with Nature's choicest dyes;
Brown, purple, crimson, green and gold.

Along the by-ways, lanes and fields
Wild asters now rich colors show
And golden rods on swinging stems
In yellow splendors brightly glow.

Touched lightly by the early frosts
In clumps and thickets may be seen
The sumacs scattered here and there
From blood red shading to pale green.

Like flaming torch along the swamp
We mark the spot where ivy twines
While fleecy whiteness here and there
Suggests the wild clematis vines.

Dead must that nature be indeed
Whose heart does not responsive thrill
At sight of such rich color blend
O'er forest, meadow, vale and hill.



What joy to tread the woodland path;
To watch the lithe gray squirrel spring
From bough to bough - or hear the grouse
Go rushing by on whirring wing.

O! Glorious, golden Autumn time
With field and woodland all ablaze;
No time of year is quite so dear
To me as mild October days!

And yet there's sadness in the thought
That these bright glories may not last
And while we watch them day by day
We wonder that they change so fast.

Yet Nature labors not in vain;
And ev'ry plant that's lived to grow
Has faithfully performed it's part—
Fulfilled its mission here below;

May this be true of you and me;
A part of this most wond'rous plan
Whate'er our station be in life
Therein to do the best we can;

And when life's Autumn comes at last
May there be neither pain nor grief;
But just a peaceful, happy change—
Just like the fading of a leaf.

-- *I. E. Nichols.*

* * *

WHO TAKES DELIGHT IN LIFE

A human life is like a single letter in the alphabet.

It can be meaningless. Or it can be part of a great meaning.

And we do not want to be meaningless.

How, then, do we find meaning?

We look, for example, at such things as power, at money, at the great and special talents of the artist, the scientist, the statesman.

And always (no matter who we are) we see someone who has more power, more money, more talent than we have.

Do we then say: *"His life has more meaning than mine."*

If we do, we have made a familiar mistake.

We have forgotten the profound democracy of Creation: that the deepest delights and the most enduring meanings of life come from the things *all* of us are given, not from what just a few are given.

For all of us are given these things:

1. We have been given ourselves...
we've been given life: the edifice of our body and mind, senses and spirit. No two of us are alike, yet each of us has the power to raise himself in the image of God.

2. We have been given power to love...
the gift of sharing ourselves with others, of belonging to them, of living on in them, the ability to love and to receive love.

3. We have been given power to serve...
the strength to be great enough to seek out the needs of others without seeking reward, to experience the delight which comes from the act of service itself.

Let us be more specific.

The gift of living . . . Have you ever discovered the wonder of the sky or the rhythm of your heart? Have you ever seen night pass into day; a smile change a face?

The gift of love . . . *Has* a child ever slipped his hand into yours just because he wanted to walk beside you?

The gift of service . . . Have you ever been fortunate enough to find tears in your eyes be-

cause someone said, "Thank you" for something you wanted to give him?

Why do these things delight us so?

They are endless...These delights are creative, each generating further delight for your days and years. Material pleasures consume themselves. Gifts of the spirit renew themselves. This is the paradox of the quest for meaning in life: it is a vessel which, the more you fill it with beauty, love and service, the larger it becomes.

They enlarge us...In the very process of giving ourselves to these delights, we grow, we change, become more sensitive, more alive. To enjoy beauty or to understand a wise word makes you only more aware of beauty and wisdom still to come.

They unite us...Power, money or even our talents, when used as ends in themselves, separate us from others. And what divides us ultimately fails us. But beauty, love and service bring us closer to others. They unite us with ourselves and with the world.

* * *

These delights are the birthright of each of us, our birthright and our inheritance.

They are so close to us that often we look right past them. And often we seek them where they are not.

Yet they are always waiting for us to claim them; to take possession of the gifts of life. They are given to us freely. And we are always free to reach for them.

And when we do, we find the way to meaning in our lives... and to oneness with God who endowed all men with these gifts which endure forever.

"Remember us unto life, O King who takes delight in life, and inscribe us in the book of life for Thy sake, O living God." *

**(From a Hebrew prayer).*

(Used by special permission of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America).

* * *

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God. -- *Daniel Webster.*

oooOooo

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

By Wallace Tibbetts

Is it not a blessing to find peace in the home of a friend? We found a beautiful sense of peace in a home we visited recently, it was not there because our friends were wealthy or entirely free from some annoyances or rather hard physical tasks thrust upon them. There we found quietness and a brand of contentment that can come only by accepting all of the difficult burdens willing hands find to do and at the same time clinging to the blessings that come to the spirit when, and because, faith is stronger than doubt. Our friends have and hold such victorious faith. It is the sheltering arm that protects their mutual affection; their love carries them along through all misty, sunless days to the uttermost reaches of trust and repose.

We were talking of faith and blessings. We agreed that our prayers did not always bring the sought-for ends; I said perhaps faith was weakened by doubts. Doubtless many good people fear their past errors have not been forgiven, they are not sure; they seem to feel that they must suffer even after forgiveness has been sought and found. Why this is so cannot be explained. Most of us are content and willing to accept the thin reasoning — "a sin confessed is half atoned."

To others the reverse appears to be true: they do not accept the blessing of being forgiven, they deny themselves and continue to suffer mentally for all past errors of their own and sins of others. Continually they pray for forgiveness on their own account and in behalf of all others within the circle of family and friends. They deny themselves happiness because they will not (or cannot) remove sorrow, distress, grief and pain from their mind. They do not realize the healing grace and blessing of forgiveness and the balm of forgetting the past. Our yesterdays cannot be changed, we cannot forsee the future, each present day furnishes opportunity for good deeds if we choose to accept them and the blessings a new dawn brings.

We may count as blessings the loyalty and sincerity of friends who realize the worth of spiritual values, and do not judge an individual solely

by physical and material possessions.

TRUTH is a blessing.

In spite of strife in a world denied peace because of greed for power and political control, truth still exists and ultimately will prevail; injustice will be overcome and equality established without distinction of class, color or creed.

FREEDOM is a blessing.

We have the precious right to think and speak or write our thoughts without fear and restraint.

LIBERTY is a blessing.

We may worship as we please, no laws or decrees control our faith, creed or religious belief. In our Republic we nominate and elect public officials in local and in national governments.

KINDNESS is a blessing.

Through loving kindness life is made worth living. No reward is greater than adult responsive thought and action when a heart and mind need tender justice and gracicus benevolence.

SYMPATHY is a blessing.

There is no hunger more keen than the craving for consolation when grief and sorrow enter our lives. Compassionate sympathy is priceless.

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP is a blessing.

Through spoken and written words we learn to accept pardon for our offences; hope enters for strength to keep high resolves sincerely made.

Ponder on these:

Let us live firmly, quietly, trustfully, without the desire to push or make haste, yet with the constant desire to do with all our might whatever our hand findeth to do for the good of our fellow-men—not taking too much thought for the morrow—and our life will be victory at last. For, having suffered patiently and done nobly through the strength of God, we shall become at last what we have done and suffered—we shall reach and keep true being.--Stopford A. Brooke.

If we look down, then our shoulders stoop. If our thoughts look down our character bends. It is only when we hold our heads up that our body becomes erect. It is only when our thoughts go up that our life becomes erect. --A. McKenzie.

BAHA'I WORLD FAITH

By Alice S. Cox

A believer in the Baha'i Faith loves to share the story of God as it has become a part of his own soul's experience. It seems like pulling back the curtain of dawn to flood the earth with sunlight. Truly the word "Baha'i" means "light" — spiritual and eternal and the founder of this newest world faith is known as Baha'u'llah, the "light, or Glory of God".

In recognizing Baha'u'llah as a Prophet of God and the "latter Day" Manifestation of divine love and will, they have gained an assurance that the promised age of peace is now making its advent and that a glorious time of human progress will succeed the present period of tribulation, cleansing and judgment.

Born of a noble Persian family, descended from a line of Abraham and from Zoroaster and ancient Iranian kings, highly respected at the court of the Shah and loved by peasants and artisans of His native province, Baha'u'llah early chose to decline a promising government calling to become a follower of the young religious Teacher, famous as the Bab ("Gate"). He was soon to take up and expand the mission which the Bab, His own Forerunner, laid down when He was martyred in the public square of Tabriz in 1850. Declaring in 1863 on the outskirts of Baghdad to a group of tried and faithful followers that He was the Promised One of the ancient Prophets and His Message for mankind, the Voice of God for this age in human history, Baha'u'llah began a world mission of spiritual and social regeneration that did not end with His death in 1892 in Akka, Palestine. Gaining momentum, it spread through His teachings and by the labors of believers to nearly every country and island of the globe in less than a century.

To-day the Baha'i Faith, claiming to be a new Revelation from God and the fulfilment of every divine Revelation of the past, has reached 3700 localities, 1600 being in the United States and over 600 in Iran, the land of its birth.

To know God and to love Him is the inner desire and the ultimate purpose of every human soul, as well as the motive underlying the wisdom of creation, Baha'u'llah states. This can only be accomplished

by the soul through knowledge of God's Manifestations, or Messengers, Who are Intermediaries between man and God, the divine Essence. These holy Beings are the Vehicles for transmission of the "grace of Divinity itself". "It is for this purpose that in every age and dispensation the Prophets of God and His chosen Ones have appeared amongst men, and have evinced such power as is born of God and such might as only the Eternal can reveal."

Because all Prophets speak of God's love and authority, all are in truth one and the same in divine nature. Thus is the oneness, the unity, of all the great religions a cardinal belief of Baha'is. But, since divine Revelation with its laws and teachings must be measured to meet the capacity and needs of a time and period of development, there appear differences in the Books of God.

In this age when the great need of the world is for unity of understanding and unity in love, Baha'u'llah placed the emphasis of His mission on human oneness, stating as the distinguishing feature of His Revelation the blotting out "whatsoever hath been the cause of strife, of malice and mischief amongst the children of men" and the laying down of "the essential requirements of concord, of understanding, of complete and enduring unity." He directed His Message particularly to mankind as a whole: "Come ye after Me, that We may make you to become the quickeners of mankind."

"Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men." "This is the Day in which God's most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things. It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness.... Soon will the present-day order be rolled up and a new one spread out in its stead. Verily, thy Lord speaketh the Truth, and is the Knower of things unseen."

Such are but a few of the challenging words that flowed copiously from the pen of Baha'u'llah from the time He began His teaching until His death.

In Tablets to kings of the earth Baha'u'llah warned of

impending world disaster and urged a system of security, justice and peace. To the religious leaders whom He addressed He issued a call to unity in the true essentials of worship, purity and love.

To help men find the potentialities of mind and spirit with which each soul is endowed, Baha'u'llah revoiced in beautiful and varied form the counsels of great Prophets of the past, giving to each a profounder exposition: the use of meditation and prayer and fasting; the way to faith in God and love for Him; obedience to His laws; virtuous living for the betterment of this life and assurance of life eternal. To direct humanity to the divine goal of God's Kingdom on earth in this age He pointed out the necessity of recognizing the wholeness of human relationships and establishing world federal institutions that will channel the new spiritual energies of men, preserve world peace, protect all natural resources and distribute their bounty to all mankind, promote universal justice and guide and foster universal education.

To complete His mission as He saw it, Baha'u'llah appointed His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Baha ("Servant of the Glory"), the Interpreter of His teachings and the Center of His Covenant with the believers. It was 'Abdu'l-Baha Whom the western world met in person in 1911 and 1912. Speaking before many assemblies in the United States and Canada, 'Abdu'l-Baha sowed the seeds of a spiritual resurrection, Baha'is affirm. It was He Who laid the cornerstone for the first Baha'i Temple in the western world at Wilmette, Illinois, on the shore of Lake Michigan.

From its world center at Haifa, Israel, this infant but vigorous faith, is now guided in its development by the grandson of 'Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani. Appointed by 'Abdu'l-Baha as Interpreter and first Guardian, Baha'is think of him, together with the institutions that they are establishing, as part of the fulfillment of the holy Covenant renewed by God through each of His Prophets, obedience to which has progressively lifted the human race to the threshold of the Golden Age. To Baha'is the gold-domed Shine of the Bab, now completed on Mt. Carmel, and the tomb of Baha'u'llah at Akka are places of spiritual pilgrimage, and radiating centers of spiritual light for a new world in the making.

* * *

A VIEW OF GOD

God is not a haughty potentate
Who, enthroned in high and lofty state,
Wants by cringing souls to be implored
While they plead abjectly, "Save us, Lord!"

Nor is God an egotistic king
Who responds to servile flattering,
By cajoling adulation swayed,
Granting boons to those who thus have prayed.

God is great! Of this can there be doubt?
Why, through Him we live and move about!
All creation is sustained by Him,
And without His care the stars would dim!

God is good, — our Father and our Friend;
One whose love for us will never end;
One who never seeks to domineer,
But who, by His grace, would draw us near.

Why neglect a great, good friend like this?
Think of all the joy we surely miss
When, with chance to walk life's road with God,
We prefer on mundane paths to plod.

-- *Ralph S. Thorn.*

oooOooo

Mrs. Chaphe Cited as Leading Poet—

Our advisor, Ae'lis Churchill Chaphe of Cortland, N. Y., has been awarded the American Poets Cup for 1956 by the American Poets Fellowship Society. It is an organization for the international advancement of poetry.

"The cup" Dr. Myra Seldon Day, national executive secretary, pointed out, "is awarded each year to the poet considered by our executive board to have contributed most to American poetry in the past year. We feel Mrs. Chaphe is highly deserving of the award."

Our warm congratulations to Mrs. Chaphe!

oooOooo

KATHARINE L. BEECH

NEW ADVISOR

IN CENTRAL ZONE

Miss Katharine L. Beech of Highland Park, Illinois, has very graciously accepted the "challenge of becoming an advisor to Fellowship in Prayer" because, she writes, "of the friendship and close understanding between my father and Carl A. Evans." Her father, Dr. Joseph Beech, was founder and president of West China Union University in Chengtu, China, and was a member of the Board for many years. He was deeply interested in Fellowship in Prayer from its inception.

Miss Beech was born in China but came home for high school and College. She is chief physical therapist at Highland Park Hospital. She says, *"Let me know in what way I can be of the most help."*

This statement expresses the wonderful spirit of cooperation from its supporters which makes Fellowship in Prayer possible. We welcome Miss Beech with warm hearts.

HOW CAN EVERYONE HELP?— Send the message as far and wide as possible, activate as many as you can reach to prayer as a way of life. Contribute to the maintenance of the organization in prayer, in spreading the purpose, in funds. — "What blesses one blesses all."

APPRECIATION

We are exceedingly grateful to those listed below, as well as always to our Contributing Editors for the articles appearing in this October number—

IN THANKSGIVING	*By Zelma Dennis.*
A PRAYER	*By Anna M. Carroll.*
"THE POWER WITHIN"	*Sent by Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor.*
PRAYER FOR ALL WORKERS	*By Theodore Carswell Hume. (Used by courtesy of Dr. & Mrs. Hume)*
OCTOBER THOUGHTS	*By I. E. Nichols.*
WHO TAKES DELIGHT IN LIFE	*By The Jewish Theological Seminary of America*
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS	*By Wallace Tibbetts.*
BAHA'I WORLD FAITH	*By Alice S. Cox.*
HANDS	*By A. E. Johnson.*

NOTICES and COMMENTS

CHRISTMAS CARDS. Due to the problem of limited staff, plus illness in the family of our beloved artist, Helen Dudley Young, Fellowship in Prayer will offer no *NEW* card this year. *PLAQUES OF DURER'S HANDS* from her studio will be available. They come in woodtone and coppertone. The price is $1.95 each, gift wrapped 25¢ extra. They make excellent gifts!

WORLD RELIGIONS. Greater interest is being shown in the various religions. Many fine comments were received on our presentation of BUDDHISM in August. An article on the Baha'i Faith appears herein, and we are grateful to the writer.

The religious horizon is indeed broadening—The Church of the Divine Paternity, Universalist, New York City, has built a chapel dedicated to *ALL* faiths. The altar embraces gold symbols of the world's great faiths—the cross of Christianity, the Star of David (Judiasm), the crescent of Islam, the wheel of Buddhism, the Arch of Shintoism, as well as symbols of Hinduism, Taoism, Confusianism and Zoroastrianism. At its dedication, it was stated: "All religions advocate the belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. By recognizing the contribution which each religion has made to the world's culture and the common aims of all religion, we can live together in a unity of spirit despite surface differences."

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. Each day brings evidence of the growth and extent to which Fellowship in Prayer is reaching. Our *NEW* subscribers' list is constantly growing and, we hope, before the year ends, it will reach a record high. Several gift subscriptions have already been received. The publication is bi-monthly, and the annual subscription rate is $2.00.

Readers may be interested in knowing that Fellowship in Prayer - aside from going to nearly every state in USA - now goes to Alaska, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Formosa, Germany, Greece, Hawaii, India, Italy, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, South America, Wales and West Pakistan.

May we ever keep in mind the thought expressed in the name of our founder—

E very
V oice
A dds
N ew
S trength!

FELLOWSHIP ADVISORS

EASTERN ZONE:

Maude H. Brodhead
Mrs. Mabel C. Burlingham
Mrs. Ae' lis Churchill Chaphe
Mrs. Arthur O. Choate
Florence S. Dustin
Mrs. George F. Holl, Jr.
Mrs. William Hung
Mrs. Frank W. Lovejoy

SOUTHERN ZONE:

Olga Lamkert
Emmy Lou Schweigert

CENTRAL ZONE:

Katharine L. Beech
Mrs. A. M. Davison
Mrs. David William Harris
Harry Halsey Starrett

WESTERN ZONE:

Mrs. Warren P. Landon
Roy Wallace Thomas
Mrs. J. H. Titus
Mrs. Helen Dudley Young

FOREIGN ZONE:

Emilie, Lady Coote *(England)*
Mrs. Bennie Caroline Hall *(Greece)*
Mrs. Mildred Seydell *(Belgium)*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

William Ernest Hocking
Carl E. Holmes
Mildred Seydell
Harry Halsey Starrett
Roy Wallace Thomas
W. J. Thompson
Ralph S. Thorn
Robert Wells Youngs

TRUSTEES and OFFICERS

William Hung, *President*

A. E. Johnson,
Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor,
Vice Presidents

S. R. Shafaq,
Verall D. Wright,
Trustees

J. E. Thompson, *Treasurer*
Kathryn G. Brown, *Acting Executive Secretary*

oooOooo

HANDS

I heard a man affirm — hands think!
His audience told him Nay;
But I for one would quite agree,
Since mine do more — they pray.

Oh, in the quiet room, the pillowed bed,
When the eyes behold but inward light,
Fall asleep with folded hands, and believe
They continue to pray all night.

To pray is to be immortal now,
To take-in God with the breath,
To draw yet nearer to His heart
Should slumber slide into death.

-- A. E. Johnson.

* * *

Fellowship in Prayer
22 East 29th Street
New York 16, N. Y.

* * * *